

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 9, 10, 14, 16, and 19-22 are currently pending in this application. Claims 1, 5, 10, 14, and 16 have been amended. Claims 8, 11-12, 15 and 17 have been cancelled without prejudice. New claims 19 to 22 are presented for consideration. Allowance of the application based on the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Applicant appreciates the indication of claims 8, 11, 12 and 17 as containing allowable subject matter.

The Examiner rejects claims 1, 2, 4-6, 9-10, and 14-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,913,127 to Dugger in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,538,377 to Stewart et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claims 1 and 10 have been amended to include the allowable features of claim 8. Thus, the rejection with respect to independent claims 1 and 10 is now moot.

Further, dependent claims 2, 4-6, 9, 14, 16 and 19-22 are likewise allowable as being dependent from an allowable independent claim.

Therefore, applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of the application.

Conclusion

It is respectfully submitted that the present amendments and remarks herein represent a complete response to all outstanding issues. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are respectfully requested.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a), Applicant respectfully petitions for a one (1) month extension of time for filing a reply in connection with the present application, and the required fee of \$55.00 is attached hereto.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Chad J. Billings (Reg. No. 48,917) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Attachment(s)